

Department of
Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date: **March 22 2006**

From: Secretary (00)

Subj: IT Realignment Organization and Implementation

To: Deputy Secretary, Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, the General Counsel and other Key Officials

1. On October 19, 2005, I approved the concept of a Federated IT Management System for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and charged the Assistant Secretary for IT with development of a Federated IT System Model and a follow-on Implementation Plan. Now is the time to take the next step and begin the initial execution of our plan and at the same time begin work on follow-on actions. Today, I have approved the Federated IT System Model as the framework for the VA's Federated IT System; established the interim Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Structure; initiated the immediate mass detail of O&M IT personnel to the Office of the AS/IT with permanent reassignment to follow in accordance with the O&M organizational construct and personnel management guidelines; and directed the immediate execution of our plan to properly communicate these decisions internally to VA and externally as well.

2. I appreciate that VA management understands the critical importance of this endeavor, has been highly involved in this organizational realignment, and will continue to be as we move forward to follow-on implementation phases. A Federated IT Management System can and will be executed effectively in order to enhance our operational effectiveness, provide standardization, and eliminate duplication in our delivery of systems serving our Nation's veterans and their families. I ask for your continued support of this very important effort.



R. James Nicholson